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W85c

1901



Affiliated with American Federation of Labor



CONSTITUTION

of the

Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers
International Union



Revised at the Third Annual Convention held
in Buffalo, N. Y.

OCTOBER 7-10, 1901



Headquarters: 182 Abbey Street
CLEVELAND, O.



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Financial Secretaries receiving this card will
 tear off this Coupon and mail it at once to the
 General Secretary, Treasurer, properly sealed
 as soon as the holder is entered as a member
 on the books of the Union.

Evidence of Traveling Card deposited for
 Membership.

This is to Certify, That the Traveling
 Card issued to Brother

by Union No. _____ of

is duly deposited in Union No. _____ of

You will therefore mark his name "Trans-
 ferred" on the books at your office.

Signed this _____ day of

190 -

Fin. Sec'y



Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers International Union.

Affiliated with A. F. of L.

TRAVELING CARD.

This is to Certify, That the Bearer hereof Brother

No. _____ Whose signature appears on the margin of this Card in his own hand writing,
 is a member in good standing of Local Union No. _____ located at _____
 and is entitled to the friendship and privileges of all Unions under our
 Jurisdiction.

Brother _____ No. _____ initiated in Local Union

No. _____ this _____ day _____ 190 -

This Card expires in one month from date, and is null and
 void after that date, unless renewed or deposited in accordance with
 the Constitution.

Given under our hands and the seal of L. U. No. _____

(Seal of Local
 Traveling Card)

this _____ day of _____ 190 -

President.

A. F. Liebig

Fin. Sec'y.

Gen Sec'y, Treas.

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PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS, Experience with local organizations in the lathing trade has demonstrated that higher wages may be secured; shorter work day established; a larger liberty enjoyed, contentions minimized between brother and brother and employer and employed; and inconvenience of traveling with local card avoided; and

WHEREAS, It has also been shown that locals not having the backing of a general organization lack stability, disappear and with them the advantages acquired through organization; and

WHEREAS, National organization in other crafts has proven highly beneficial, we believe the same good results would follow the linking of all the local lathers' unions in one body, therefore, the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' International Union is organized, and adopts for its guidance the following Constitution:

ARTICLE I.

Name and Membership.

Section 1. This body shall be known as the "Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' International Union," and shall consist of such local unions of the lathing trade as shall conform to its Constitution and Laws.

Sec. 2. Each local shall have power to fix its own by-laws, initiation fee and dues, not in conflict with this constitution; but the minimum initiation fee shall be one dollar.

Sec. 3. No member who has been fined, suspended or expelled, stricken from the roll or

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rejected by any local union shall be eligible for membership until all matters are settled to the satisfaction of the local union having the grievance against the member, or person.

But he may be permitted to work on permit until communication is had with the local from which he came and satisfactory arrangements are made with the local fining, suspending or expelling him, by paying the initiation fee.

Sec. 4. No member of this Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' International Union can be a member of more than one local union at the same time, or any other organization conflicting with the trade of lathing and covered by the claims of the W. W. and M. L. I. U.

Sec. 5. Members working at the trade in towns where there are not enough to form a local union or where a local union has lapsed shall be allowed to join the nearest local union.

ARTICLE II.

Objects.

Section 1. To unite the local lathers' unions under one head, and do all things necessary to further the interests of the craft on the lines pursued by the older unions.

ARTICLE III.

The Convention.

Section 1. The convention of the International shall meet annually at 10 a. m. on the first Monday in October at such place as the delegates have selected at the preceding convention.

Sec. 2. At the opening of the convention the President shall take the chair and call the convention to order and preside during its session.

Sec. 3. The following committees, consisting of three members each, shall be appointed by the President: 1. Credentials. 2. Rules and Order of Business. 3. Report of President. 4. Report of Executive Council. 5.

Report of Secretary. 6. Resolutions. 7. Laws. 8. Organization. 9. Grievance. 10. Auditing.

Sec. 4. Resolutions of any character or propositions for changes in this constitution intended for consideration in the convention shall be sent to the Secretary of the International Union at least two weeks previous to the date of the convention. The Secretary shall have the same compiled and printed in the program of business and mailed to each delegate-elect and to the executive officer of each local, and no resolution or constitutional provision shall be considered unless printed in the program, without a two-third vote of the convention.

Sec. 5. The report of the Grievance Committee shall be considered in executive session.

Sec. 6. None other than members of a bona fide trade union shall be permitted to address the convention or read papers therein except by a two-thirds vote of the convention.

Sec. 7. The rules and order of business governing the preceding convention shall be in force from the opening of any convention of the W. W. & M. L. I. U. until new rules have been adopted by action of the convention.

ARTICLE IV.

Representation.

Section 1. The basis of representation in the convention shall be one delegate from each local.

Sec. 2. The delegate shall be elected at least two weeks previous to the annual convention of the W. W. & M. L. I. U. and the names of such delegates shall be forwarded to the secretary of this body immediately after their election.

Sec. 3. Questions may be decided by division or a show of hands, but if a call of the roll is demanded by one-tenth of the delegates pres-

ent. each delegate shall cast one vote.

Sec. 4. The Secretary shall prepare for use of the convention printed poll lists.

Sec. 5. No organization which has seceded, or has been suspended or expelled shall be allowed a representation or recognition in this body until all the rules of the W. W. & M. L. I. U. have been complied with.

Sec. 6. No local shall be entitled to representation unless such local has applied for and obtained a charter at least one month prior to the convention, and no person shall be recognized as a delegate who is not a member in good standing of the local he is to represent.

ARTICLE V.

Officers.

Section 1. The officers of the W. W. & M. L. I. U. shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer and an Executive Council of three members, the two Vice-Presidents to act as part of the Executive Council.

Sec. 2. The President and first Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and chairman of the Executive Council shall be members of the succeeding convention in case they are not elected delegates, but without vote, and their expenses to be paid by the I. U.

Sec. 3. The term of the officers of the W. W. & M. L. I. U. shall expire immediately upon the election and obligation of their successors.

Sec. 4. All books and financial accounts shall at all times be open to the inspection of the President and Executive Council.

ARTICLE VI.

Duties of President.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the annual convention, to exercise supervision of the International

throughout its jurisdiction, to sign all official documents, and to travel with the consent of the Executive Council whenever required in the interest of the W. W. & M. L. I. U.

Sec. 2. The President shall submit to the Secretary at the end of each month an itemized account of all moneys expended, traveling and incidental expenses incurred by him in the interest of this organization, and shall report his acts and doings to the annual convention of the W. W. & M. L. I. U.

Sec. 3. The President, if not a delegate, shall have the casting vote in case of a tie, but shall not have vote at other times.

Sec. 4. The President shall call meetings of the Executive Council when necessary and shall receive for his services such sums as the annual convention or Executive Council may determine, payable weekly.

Sec. 5. No meeting of the Executive Council shall be called involving expense unless there is in the Secretary-Treasurer's hands money over and above sufficient to pay the running expenses of the office, pay for needed supplies on delivery, and the salary and expenses of the Secretary-Treasurer for at least three months, and none of this amount shall be used for any other purpose.

Sec. 6. In case of a vacancy in the office of President by death, resignation or other cause, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President until his successor is elected.

ARTICLE VII.

Duties of Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 1. The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be to take charge of all books, papers and effects of the general office, to conduct the correspondence pertaining to his office, to furnish the elective officers with the necessary stationery, to convene and act as Secretary at the annual convention, and to furnish to the Committee on Credentials at the convention

a statement of the financial standing of each local.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to report all moneys received and paid out and other business of the International, and forward report of same to locals affiliated monthly, together with a statement of the locals as to wages, hours and number of lathers in the Union and number out of the Union. A fine of from \$5 to \$25 to be placed against locals making false returns.

Also a list of the names and addresses of all local secretaries and the price per day or thousand and the number of hours per day be published monthly in the Lather, also the number of membership of each local.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the editor of the Lather.

Sec. 2. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall receive for the faithful performance of his duties the sum of \$15.00 a week. He shall not be allowed to work at the trade or engage in any other business while holding office. For any violation of this section he shall, upon trial and conviction be fined the sum of \$50.00, and on the second offense and conviction be removed from office. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall give a bond of \$500.00.

Sec. 3. The bond of the General Secretary-Treasurer shall be approved by the local union of which said officer is a member and forwarded to the General President within thirty days after his election. Said bond must be furnished by a good security company, real estate or certified check as security, cost of said bond to be defrayed by the W. W. and L. I. U., provided, that the sum of not more than \$50.00 shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary-Treasurer to meet current expenses. Any such outlay shall not require warrant to be drawn for its expenditure. Such current expenses shall include salary of Secretary-Treasurer.

Sec. 4. He shall deposit all moneys belonging to this organization in bank in his name as Secretary-Treasurer of the W. W. & M. L. I. U. and before any moneys thus deposited can be drawn, each check shall be signed by him as Secretary-Treasurer.

Sec. 5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall submit to the Auditing Committee for their inspection vouchers for all moneys expended, close all accounts of the W. W. & M. L. I. U. on October 1, of each year, and all moneys received or disbursed after such date shall not be reported in the general balance account of the ensuing convention.

Sec. 6. The Secretary-Treasurer shall submit to the annual convention a complete statement of all receipts and disbursements during his term of office, and at the expiration of his term of office he shall deliver up to his successor all moneys, securities, books and papers of the W. W. & M. L. I. U. under his control.

ARTICLE VIII.

Executive Council.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council to watch legislative measures directly affecting the interests of the working people, and to initiate whenever necessary such legislative action as the convention may direct.

Sec. 2. The Executive Council shall use every possible means to organize new locals.

Sec. 3. The Executive Council shall also prepare and present to the convention in printed form a concise statement of their work.

Sec. 4. Whenever the revenue of the W. W. & M. L. I. U. shall warrant such action the Executive Council shall authorize the sending out of an organizer.

Sec. 5. The remuneration for loss of time by members of the Executive Council, or organizer engaged by them, shall be such sum as he

gets in his local per day, and traveling and hotel expenses.

Sec. 6. The Executive Council shall have power to make rules to govern matters not in conflict with this constitution.

Sec. 7. In the event of a vacancy of any member of the Executive Council, by reason of death, resignation or other cause, the President shall make such vacancy known to the Executive Council, and shall call for nominations. The names of all nominees shall be submitted to the Executive Council, and it shall require a majority vote of the Executive Council to elect. Upon each unsuccessful balloting the name of the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped.

Sec. 8. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall furnish the General Executive Council with all necessary stationery.

ARTICLE IX.

Revenue.

Section 1. The revenue of the W. W. & M. L. I. U. shall be derived from a per capita of five cents per month per member and the profits on supplies.

Sec. 2. Delegates shall not be entitled to a seat in the annual convention unless the tax on their local, as provided for in Section 1 of this Article, has been paid in full to October 1 preceding the convention.

Sec. 3. Any local not paying the per capita tax on or before the 15th of each month shall be notified of the fact by the Secretary of the International, and if by the 15th of the following month it is still in arrears, it shall become suspended from membership in the W. W. and M. L. I. U., and can be reinstated only by vote of the Executive Council when such arrearages are paid in full as provided.

Sec. 4. Each local union shall pay to the General Secretary-Treasurer ten (10) per cent.

of all initiation fees for each new member. Charter members are exempt from such fee. Said money to be used in defraying the running expenses of the General Executive.

ARTICLE X.

Local Bodies.

Section 1. Any local ordering a strike without consulting the Executive Council, will not be assured of any support.

ARTICLE XI.

Traveling Cards.

Section 1. Traveling cards of the W. W. and M. L. I. U. to be issued by the General Secretary-Treasurer to all local unions as hereinbefore shown.

Sec. 2. This must be filled out properly by Financial Secretaries of the local union issuing same. The member drawing said card must sign his name in the margin in his own handwriting and pay all arrearages also (one month's dues in advance) and twenty cents for the card. No vote of the union being necessary for its issue.

Sec. 3. Local Secretaries shall forward to the General Secretary-Treasurer the names of all members of their respective locals. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall number all members' names sent to him by local Secretaries, and keep a record of such in a book provided for that purpose, and forward the numbers to their respective locals.

Sec. 4. The local Secretary receiving card shall immediately forward coupon detached to the General Secretary-Treasurer, who shall immediately transfer name and number of said coupon from the local list of one local to the other, the same to be published in each issue of the Journal.

Sec. 5. On a member of a local union moving from the jurisdiction of one union to that

of another, he shall be allowed to work until the first meeting night after his arrival under its jurisdiction; thereupon said member shall present his card to the Financial Secretary and his card shall be honored and his name placed upon the membership roll, according to Section 7 of this Article.

Sec. 6. Traveling cards must be deposited in some local union of the International Union before its expiration. If a member is in a locality where no local union of the International Union exists, he must, in order to retain his beneficial standing, forward the sum of 25 cents per month to the General Secretary-Treasurer, and be placed on the general list of members at large. A General Membership card will be issued by the General Secretary-Treasurer in exchange for the traveling card which must also be deposited as soon as he reaches the jurisdiction of a local union regardless of any dues credited in advance on the card.

Sec. 7. Should a member who is not six months in good standing in the International Union desire a traveling card it shall be granted with the understanding or provision that, should such member enter a locality where a higher initiation fee prevails, he shall pay the difference of the initiation fee between the two unions to the local union accepting his traveling card, if they so desire. Traveling card to state the date of initiation.

Sec. 8. Any member leaving the jurisdiction of one local and going into that of another without a traveling card shall not be entitled to membership in said local unless he agrees to pay all arrearages to the local from whence he came. His traveling card to be sent back at once and a charge of 25 cents to be made to defray expenses.

ARTICLE XII.

Duties of Local Secretaries.

Sec. 1. All local Recording Secretaries shall

forward the names and numbers of all members to the General Secretary-Treasurer that are suspended, fined or expelled and the cause thereof, the same to be published in each edition of the Journal.

Sec. 2. All local Recording Secretaries shall keep a ledger in which shall be placed a true record of all suspensions, fines and expulsions that are published in the monthly report of the General Secretary-Treasurer. Said ledger must be referred to before initiating any applicant. Any local union failing to keep such a record shall be fined—said fines to be paid to W. W. and M. L. I. U. defense fund.

ARTICLE XIII.

Withdrawal Cards.

Section 1. Any member desiring to leave or quit the trade shall be allowed to withdraw from membership by paying all demands to date of withdrawal.

Such withdrawal card shall entitle the said member to readmission on payment of 50 cents inside of six months.

Sec. 2. Members depositing withdrawal card inside of one year shall pay half the initiation fee of said local union.

Sec. 3. Members depositing withdrawal cards over one year old shall pay a full initiation fee to said local union.

ARTICLE XIV.

Wood, Wire and Metal Lathing.

Section 1. The W. W. and M. L. I. U. claims jurisdiction over the following work:

All light iron construction, furring, bracket work, wood, wire and metal lath and corner-heads. Arches erected for the purposes of holding plaster, cement, concrete or other plastic material.

ARTICLE XV.

Locals and How Formed.

Section 1. In cities, villages and towns where

there are not sufficient members of the lathing craft to form a separate local, such lathers may be admitted to full membership in the nearest local to the W. W. & M. L. I. U., and shall be entitled to all privileges pertaining to members thereof, under the constitution of the W. W. & M. L. I. U., and the local rules and by-laws. Provided, that as soon as the resident members of the lathing craft in any such cities or towns shall be enough to warrant the granting of a charter, the members in such city or town shall be formed into a separate local.

The International Union further recommends that in districts where there are two or more locals in adjoining cities or towns within a radius of 25 miles said locals shall form a Lathers' District Council as soon as possible.

Sec. 2. Charter shall be granted by the President, and by and with the consent of the Executive Council.

Sec. 3. Five lathers of good character may form a local and receive a charter by conforming to the constitutional requirements.

Sec. 4. The charter fee for local bodies shall be ten dollars for charter and complete outfit, and the fee shall accompany the application.

ARTICLE XVI.

Funeral Benefit.

Section 1. On the death of a member his heirs shall be entitled to a funeral benefit of \$100.00 provided said member has complied with the rules of the International Union and was in good standing at the time of his death.

Sec. 2. On the death of a member who may have conformed to the rules of the International Union, his wife, next of kin or nominee, shall be entitled to a funeral benefit by making application in a proper form to the local Secretary of which he was a member, accompanied by a death certificate; but if not a member of any local at time of death, application

shall be made to the local from which he drew his card.

Sec. 3. The Local Secretaries shall be required to forward the names of every member each month, so that at all times the General Secretary-Treasurer shall know who are in good standing.

Sec. 4. Any member in good standing with the General Union and the local of which he was a member, having failed to forward his per capita tax, said local shall be held liable for funeral benefits.

Sec. 5. No member shall be entitled to funeral benefits who is not in good standing on the General Secretary's books.

Sec. 6. No member shall be entitled to funeral benefits until three months after becoming a member of the General Union.

Sec. 7. On the death of any member in good standing, the local of which he was a member shall forward the certificate of death to the General Secretary-Treasurer, who, on receipt, shall send the \$100 to the local in its regular order.

Sec. 8. The locals where the death occurs shall meet the immediate wants of the case from funds in their possession, such amount to be refunded when the General Secretary forwards the death benefit.

Sec. 9. Any member of this International Union who shall allow his arrears or General Union levies to exceed one month shall forfeit all claims to the funeral benefits of the International Union.

Sec. 10. Any member allowing his arrears to exceed one month to be entitled to funeral benefits one month after clearing himself on the books.

Sec. 11. At the death of a member in benefits who has no relation near him, the local of which he was a member shall see him properly interred and after discharging all debts not to exceed the amount of funeral money the mem-

ber may be entitled to—shall forward the receipts for all expenditures to headquarters. All applications for funeral money shall be signed by the Financial Secretary and President, in the local of which he was a member.

Sec. 12. The General Secretary shall assess each member in good standing in the International Union, the sum of ten (10) cents. Upon the death of any member, the same to be forwarded to headquarters at once to be on hand for immediate use.

ARTICLE XVII.

Locals Belonging to Rival Organizations.

Section 1. No local holding a charter in the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' International Union shall be attached to any other union doing work claimed by the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers' International Union; and all charters now in existence shall be revoked by the Executive Council after thirty days from date unless such locals shall sever all connections with rival organizations.

Sec. 2. Any member of a local going into the jurisdiction of another local to work must deposit his card with one of the officers of the local before going to work and be governed by the laws of the local in whose jurisdiction he is working. Any violation of this rule shall subject the member to a fine of \$5.

Sec. 3. The Executive Council may delegate its power to issue charters and do other business belonging to the Council or to the President and Secretary-Treasurer, when in the Council's judgment time and money may be saved and the interests of the organization advanced.

Sec. 4. In all cities of 400,000 or more inhabitants two or more charters may be granted if so desired. Provided, that the same laws in regard to initiation, wages, and length of day be adhered to by all, and provided that the re-

quest for charters does not come from persons already members.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Miscellaneous.

Section 1. Local unions shall make every effort to secure the eight hour day as soon as possible.

Sec. 2. Subscription price for the Lather, 50 cents per year.

Sec. 3. All supplies must be procured from the International Secretary-Treasurer, and money to accompany all orders.

Sec. 4. An appeal for financial aid from a local union to other unions shall first be approved by the Executive Council.

Sec. 5. No local union can be dissolved as long as there are five dissenting members; and when dissolved, the property of the local shall be turned over to the International Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE XIX.

Amendments.

Section 1. This constitution can be amended or altered only at a regular session of the convention, and to do so it will require a two-thirds vote.

COMMITTEE.

W. J. CLARK, Chairman,
Newcastle, Pa.

JOSEPH STEVENS,
Detroit, Mich.

H. J. ROYER,
Toledo, O.

HENRY LIEBIG,
Niagara Falls, N. Y.

THOMAS CROSSEN,
St. Louis, Mo.

O. A. AUSTIN, Secretary,
Norfolk, Va.

Order of Business.

1. Opening of meeting.
2. Roll call of officers.
3. Report of Committee on Credentials.
4. Roll call of delegates.
5. Reading of minutes.
6. Report of committees.
7. Report of officers.
8. Report and petition of local unions.
9. Communications and bills.
10. Unfinished business.
11. New business.
12. Nomination and election of officers.
13. Installation of officers.
14. Selection of place for next convention.
15. Good and welfare.
16. The sessions of this convention shall be called to order at 8:30 a. m., and shall be adjourned at 12 m., resuming at 2 p. m. and adjourning at 5 p. m. No night sessions shall be held except by a two-thirds majority vote of delegates present.

In obligating members they shall answer the following questions: Have you ever been a member of the W. W. and M. L. I. U.? If so, in what local union?

Obligation of Officers

I —————, do hereby sincerely pledge my word of honor as a man to perform the duties of my office as prescribed by the laws of this International Union, and to bear true allegiance to the W. W. and M. L. I. U. I will deliver to my successor in office all books, papers and other properties of this union that may be in my possession at the close of my official term. I will also deliver all property of the W. W. and M. L. I. U. to the General Sec'y Treasurer of the same upon demand. All of this I solemnly promise, with the full knowledge that to violate this pledge is to stamp me as a man devoid of principle and destitute of honor.

Obligation of Members

I ————— do hereby sincerely pledge my word of honor as a man that I will abide by the Constitution and Laws of this International Union, and that I will pay all dues and assessments levied by this International Union while a member, and that I will not divulge any of the business.



